

REMARKS

I. Introduction

At the time of the Office Action of May 17, 2007, claims 2-6, 8-12, 17, and 18 are pending in this application. Of those claims, claim 3 has been withdrawn from consideration pursuant to the provisions of 37 C.F.R. §1.142(b). Applicants acknowledge, with appreciation, the Examiner's allowance of claims 2, 4-6, 8, and 9.

In this Amendment, claim 3 has been amended, and claims 10-12, 17, and 18 have been canceled, without prejudice, reserving right to prosecution in a continuation application. Care has been exercised to avoid the introduction of new matter.

Claims 2, 4-6, 8, and 9 are now active in this application. Upon the allowance of claim 2, Applicants respectfully request rejoinder examination and allowance of claim 3 directed to the non-elected species.

II. The Rejection of Claims 10-12, 17, and 18

Claims 10-12, 17, and 18 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Katta et al. This rejection has been rendered moot by the cancellation of claims 10-12, 17, and 18. Applicants, therefore, respectfully solicit withdrawal of the rejection of the claims.

III. Conclusion

Accordingly, the application is in condition for allowance, an indication of which is respectfully solicited. If there are any outstanding issues that might be resolved by an interview

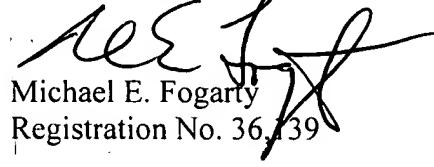
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or an Examiner's amendment, Examiner is requested to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number shown below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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